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From: O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH)
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2009 10:38 AM
To: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Cc: Salemi, Charles (DPH); Sprague, Shirley (DPH); Saunders, Della (DPH)
Subject: Evidence Office

Hi Julie,

As the fall out from Melendez-Diaz continues I see a couple of problems starting to develop. As you know, only certain people are allowed to have access to the safe and act as evidence officers. Shirley, Gloria, (Steve for much of the last year), Della and I can function as evidence officers as need be. We know that Steve is gone, Gloria is mostly out on leave, and since Della and I have done primarily trafficking cases as chemists we are being summonsed left and right for court. That has left the burden on Shirley to do the bulk of the work at this current time. I see the potential that if she is out for her vacation, or has other needs, that the evidence window may have to be shut down during regularly scheduled hours. We just do not have the staffing to prevent this from happening.

In addition, as chemists are being forced to respond to many requests for data and also appear in court, they have hardly been able to analyze samples. This affects not only our backlog but also the expedited samples that are languishing due to insufficient staffing.

Just a heads up, I'm sure you are not surprised by any of this....thanks for all of your efforts to date.

Betsy